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Revenue to close Bremerton field office

Bremerton, Wash., July 25, 2001 — The Department of Revenue will close its Bremerton field office August 31 in an efficiency move, the Agency announced today.

"The closure is part of an ongoing effort by the Department to reduce the cost of tax collection through consolidating field offices, improving procedures, and other efficiencies," Agency Director Fred Kiga said.

"We regret having to close the Bremerton office, but the continuing downsizing of state government forces us to make some tough choices that lead to greater efficiencies," Kiga said.

Offsetting the closure is the availability of additional tax resources over the Internet at dor.wa.gov and the Department's toll-free assistance line, 1-800-647-7706. For those who need to visit a field office, maps of field offices in Port Angeles, Olympia, Tacoma, and Seattle are available online at <http://dor.wa.gov/folist.asp>.

"If taxpayers need to visit a field office, they still can go to the Agency's Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia, or Port Angeles offices," Kiga added.

He pointed out that the number of registered businesses in Washington has increased more than 40 percent since 1995 while Agency staffing levels have declined nearly 9 percent and continue to fall. Governor Gary Locke also has asked state agencies to find ways to reduce their power consumption.

"We have to find ways to increase efficiencies and cut costs, and reducing the number of field offices is one way to do that," Kiga said. "The technology revolution also has helped us deliver more information directly to citizens, which in turn has reduced the need for field offices."

Six employees now work out of that office. Three auditors will continue to work out of a smaller Bremerton office and three compliance staff will be reassigned to surrounding field offices.

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